

Monitoring

Directions: Read the boxed passage *once*. Answer items 1–4 as best you can, or leave blanks. Reread the passage more slowly, using appropriate fix-up strategies. Revise your earlier answers. Then complete item 5.

The word *October* shares a root with the words *octave* and *octopus*. The root is *octo*, from the Latin word meaning “eight.” An octave has eight notes, and an octopus has eight arms, but what does October have to do with the number eight? Over two thousand years ago, the old Roman calendar started not with January but with March, the beginning of spring. Counting from March, October is the eighth month. Even after the calendar was reorganized and October became the tenth month, no one changed its name. You can see the pattern in other months too. September takes its name from the Latin word for “seven,” since it was once the seventh month. Similarly, November takes its name from the Latin word for “nine,” and December from the word for “ten.” The month we know as July, once the fifth month in the year, used to be called “Quintilis” from the Latin word meaning “five.” However, when Julius Caesar reorganized the calendar, he named the fifth month after himself—hence, our “July.”

1. What is the link between *octave*, *octopus*, and *October*?

2. What was July’s old name, and how did it come to be called “July”?

3. Knowing that the next ruler after Julius Caesar was Caesar Augustus, speculate about how the month after July got its current name.

4. Summarize the paragraph after your first reading:

5. Summarize the paragraph after your second reading. What confusions did you clear up or what new information did you notice?

